

When a property owner is interested in building a home, making other physical improvements to his property, subdividing property, or otherwise changing the use or physical characteristics of a building or parcel of property, a number of state and local regulations may apply. The County's Building Code Official, the County Health Department, the County Zoning Administrator, and the County's E&S Technician work together to assure compliance of a particular project with state and local laws. Generally, these public officials have responsibility for the following areas:

**Building Code Official:** the County is required to enforce the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code with respect to the construction and renovation of buildings and structures. Our local [Building Official](#) and his staff should be contacted prior to commencement of any work. We also offer a plan review service, to assist you in determining, prior to commencement of any work, what may be your obligations under the Building Code.

**County Health Department:** the County Health Department must approve water and wastewater systems. For most residential and commercial development within the County, approval of a well and approval of an appropriate septic system will be required. Information regarding permits, approval processes, and fees may be obtained directly from the [Health Department](#).

**Environmental Approvals:** certain land-disturbing activities require approval of an Erosion & Sediment Control Plan and/or a Stormwater Management Plan. Information regarding when these requirements may apply may be obtained from the County's Environmental Technician.

**Zoning Approvals:** a zoning permit is required when a new building is constructed, when an existing building is renovated, or when a property owner changes the use or size of an existing lot or parcel of land. The purpose of a zoning permit is to allow the County's [Zoning Administrator](#) to verify that the use or development of the property is in accordance with applicable County zoning and subdivision regulations.